Safety measures in Railways

897. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the new safety measures introduced for AC compartments by the RDSO and other research organisations of Railway since 1994-95;

(b) whether any effort has been made to provide more outlets;

(c) whether it is a fact that no new safety improvements have been done by Railways since 1991-92; and

(d) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Introduction of safety measures is a continuous process. Since 1994-95 UIC vestibules have been provided for safer travel.

(b) Effort is on to design emergency openable windows, in addition to existing outlets.

(c) No, Sir. Introduction of safety measures is a continuous process. Since 1991-92 the following measures have been adopted.

(i) Provision of roof mounted air-conditioned package units.

(ii) Provision of UIC vestibules.

(iii) Provision of air-brakes.

(iv) Introduction of fire retardent material for protective services/panels, cables etc.

(d) Does not arise.

Implementation of "Education for All" Scheme

898. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the illiteracy average in India, State-wise;

(b) the target fixed under Education for All by 2000 AD to impart education to different categories of illiterate persons;

(c) the target achieved so far category-wise and State-wise;

(d) the funds allocated by Government for the scheme, State-wise; and

(e) the special measures proposed to be taken for efficient implementation of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) The Literacy data in the country is collected through decennial census operations. According to the 1991 Census the illiteracy rate in the country was 47.79%. A statement showing State-wise illiteracy rate is enclosed (See below)

(b) The target fixed was to cover 345 districts during the Eighth Five Year Plan and make 100 million people functionally literate. The target age-group under the literacy campaigns is 15-35 years. Children in 9-14 age-group are also covered wherever the scheme of Non-Formal Education is not operational or its coverage is inadequate.

(c) So far Total Literacy Campaigns have been launched in 414 districts of 26 States/UTs. According to the reports received as of date about 57.96 million persons have been made literate of which an estimated 62% of the learners are women, 21% belong to SCs and 10% to STs.

(d) An allocation of Rs. 1400 crores has been made for all literacy programmes during the Eighth five Year Plan. No State-wise allocations are made and funds are released on the basis of requirements of the State Governments & the proposals for Total/Post Literacy Campaigns received from various districts.

(e) The special measures which are being taken for the efficient implementation of the literacy programmes include the following:

(i) Organisation of regular Sensitisation workshops for collectors and other officials and non-officials involved in literacy campaings;

(ii) Organisation of workshops for sensitising the writers and media personnel on literacy issues;

(iii) Decentralisation and devolution of powers to State Literacy Missions (SLMs). The